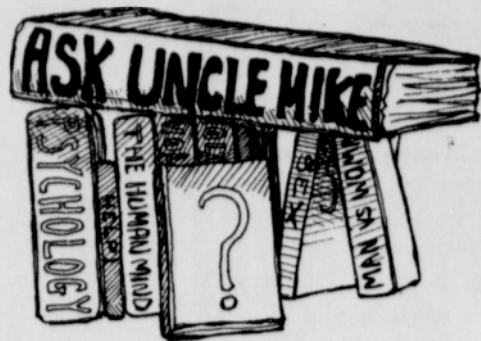


Dear Uncle Mike,

If you print my letter would you not give my name please? I am a seventeen year old girl and have never had sex. I don't want to. Being good is not why. I've kissed boys of course but the other parts that are supposed to turn me on make me go cold. I'm not scared, I just don't want to do it. It seems messy and like an animal from what I've seen. I'm the only girl I know who feels this way. They all want to have sex even if they don't. I just don't. I thought I might be gay but I'm not. Other than this I'm pretty normal. I don't know what to do or if I should do anything. I don't have brother or sisters and my stepmom is not the person to ask, for me anyway. I would appreciate whatever you say.

Call Me Leslie



You can now contact Uncle Mike at mburgess@wcn.net, if you must.

THERAPY PAGE

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Dear Leslie,

The first thing Uncle Mike would say is that no problem was every solved by worrying. As John Prine, a singer you might want to listen to sometime, reminds us: we are what we are and we ain't what we ain't. You say you're not scared by the thought of having sex. If true, that's a good thing. When confronting a mystery as enormous and powerful as sex, being frightened can really get in the way. As for not wanting to have sex, this is a decision many people make at various times in their lives for unimaginably various reasons. The difference between them and you is that they know what it is they don't want to do, and why it is they don't want to do it. This is a very good thing. Uncle Mike is not encouraging you to have sex. If he's encouraging you to do anything, it's to have fun and be happy; things he encourages everyone to do. What makes us happiest is to love and be loved. Uncle Mike suspects you've not fallen in love. It's something to look forward to. What happens is that you have this truly overpowering urge to achieve unity with another human. Intimacy, instead of something to be avoided, becomes the antidote to a poison you seem to have taken. You experience joy and healthy feelings of abandon. What you're abandoning is the hollow isolation that comes of not giving yourself up to something larger than yourself. But Uncle Mike digresses. If you don't want to enter into sexual relations, don't. Life is long, change is constant. As for sex being messy and us being animals, Uncle Mike gives you one for two. When Uncle Mike fills his cup too full and slops coffee onto the table, he doesn't see a mess. He sees coffee. Like you, Uncle Mike is now, has been since the day he was born, and will continue to be until the day he "dies", an animal: a mammal, a primate whose close cousins are orangoutangs and chimpanzees. Mating is very common in our family and Uncle Mike is strong on tradition. Unless you make great effort to avoid it, love will find you. Unless you make great effort not to enjoy it, sex will teach you much about the nature of pleasure and the art of being human; neither of which are yucky.

Dear Uncle Mike,

This is just one of those dumb questions that occur to a person. When you turn off a light, where does the electricity go?

Brian

Dear Brian,

This is just one of those snotty answers Uncle Mike reserves for people who confuse him with an encyclopedia or the information service at the library. Electricity is a flow of electrons: itsy bitsy glops of negative charge which have, in terms of substance, every bit as much reality as faeries. When the little switch is turned one way, the drawbridge is down and the faeries race back and forth through the wire (the black thing that comes out of the base of your Roy Rogers lamp). When you turn the switch off (are we writing this down?), the drawbridge goes down and the faeries sit around twiddling their thumbs in their room. This is what electricians (or faerie masters) mean by the term "grounded". Some people believe that knocking on wood wins them good luck from the faeries who live in trees. The faeries who live in the walls like you to stick Mr. Butter Knife into the little door in the socket and wave.

Dear Uncle Mike,

My girlfriend is super jealous and flips out if I pay any attention at all to another woman. It's a problem all the time but mostly because of my ex-girlfriend. We're real good friends and I like to see her sometimes and talk on the phone. I can only do this when my girlfriend's not around and even though nothing is going on I feel guilty and scared she'll find out. Is there anything I can say or do to change my girlfriend's attitude and make her trust me?

Jeff

Dear Jeff,

You might try living the truth. Unless you're a cad and your girlfriend has good reason to believe you might, as they say, jump the fence, what you're dealing with is fullblown neurosis. People either trust people or they don't. Being with partners who, in word or deed, lie to them is not the best of cures. Your decision has nothing to do with who you care about the most. It involves how you choose to live your life. If Uncle Mike were a betting man, and he is, he'd wager his boots the truth will eventually out. Tell the young woman you love her; but not enough to sever your relationships with, not just your friend, but half the human race. Then she gets to decide how much you mean to her.



IN AN UNJUST WORLD...JUSTICE.

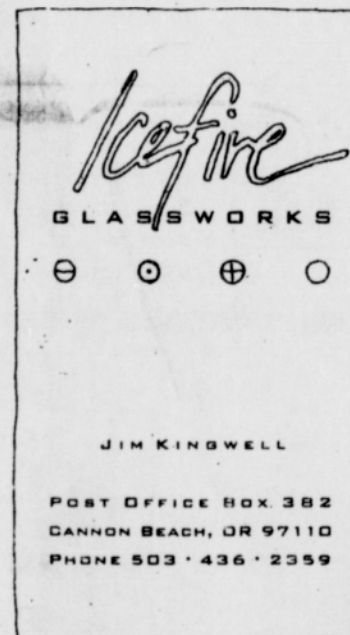
Personal Injury Lawyer

GREGORY KAFOURY

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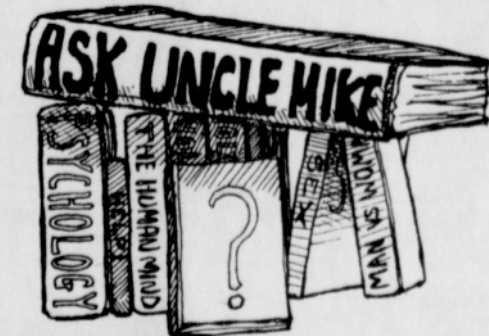
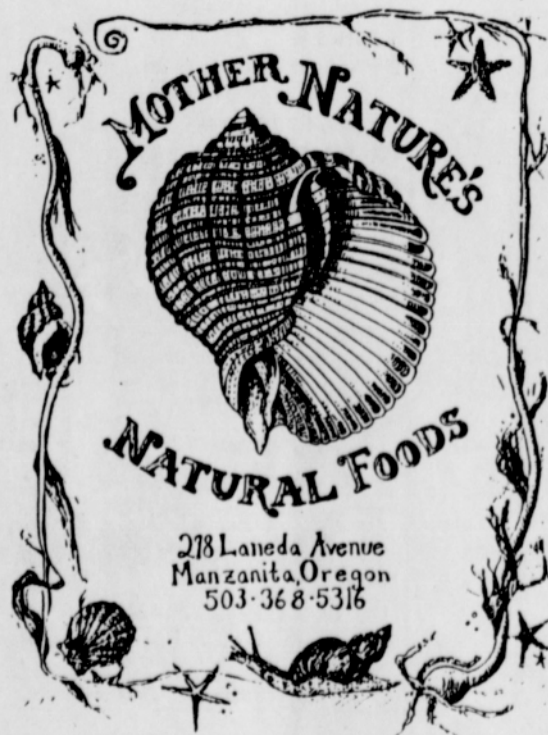
Phone:
(503) 224-2647

"I regret that a private comment I made to the vice presidential candidate made it through the public airways."—Allentown, Pa., Sept. 5, 2000.



"What I am against is quotas. I am against hard quotas, quotas they basically delineate based upon whatever. However they delineate, quotas, I think vulcanize society. So I don't know how that fits into what everybody else is saying, their relative positions, but that's my position."

—Quoted by Molly Ivins,



Eugene Fans of Uncle Mike get a rare treat!!

Due to growing demand on the part of Uncle Mike fans in Eugene, Michael Burgess will be coming to Eugene and will be reading from "Uncle Mike's Guide to the Real Oregon Coast", "Letters from Uncle Mike", and the newly released, and cleverly titled, "More Letters to Uncle Mike" this month.

Uncle Mike will be reading and signing his books at **Tsunami Books** at 2585 Willamette in Eugene **Saturday, October 28th at 5PM.** It's a free event

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"I read the newspaper."
—In answer to a question about his reading habits,
New Hampshire Republican Debate, Dec. 2, 1999

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